



Climate crisis demands SYSTEM CHANGE

Millions took part in the historic, youth-led, global climate strike on Sept. 20. At least 5,000 actions were held in 163 countries, kicking off a week of civil disobedience, news conferences, organizing events and more to combat the growing capitalist climate crisis.

From the **PHILIPPINES** to **AFGHANISTAN**, from **SOUTH AFRICA** to **PUERTO RICO**, oppressed people living on the front lines of climate change and imperialist wars led the way and set the tone.

In the U.S., the largest protest took place in **New York**, where 250,000 marched from Foley Square to Battery Park — the majority of them multinational high school students. The pressure for mass walkouts from public schools was so great that city officials gave the youth permission to skip classes that day, trying to blunt the impact of a mass strike.

The mood in Manhattan's streets was militant and passionately anti-capitalist. "System change, not climate change" was a slogan seen on many of the thousands of handcrafted protest signs calling out the profit system and big business for their culpability in the growing environmental catastrophe. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Amazon.com were also slammed hard: "The wrong ICE is melting, the wrong Amazon is burning."

A banner from Struggle-La Lucha, "The Pentagon: world's biggest polluter. Shut it down!" was very popular, as was a second banner from the Socialist Unity Party declaring, "No more blood for Big Oil profits — U.S. hands off Iran and Venezuela." Many young people as well as older marchers stopped to have their photos taken with the banners, snapped up newspapers and fliers, and expressed their support for the anti-war, anti-imperialist demands.

Unions also joined the massive demonstration, including 1199SEIU, the New York State Nurses Association, the United Federation of Teachers and the Communication Workers.



SLL PHOTO: SHARON BLACK



SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

Speakers at Battery Park conveyed a strongly anti-colonial, pro-Indigenous message, with young people from many nationalities speaking. Many climate strikers stayed through the hot afternoon to hear Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old activist whose one-person climate strike outside the Swedish Parliament helped inspire the global movement.

Thunberg has both inspired millions of young people to take to the streets, and become a reviled figure for climate change deniers like Donald Trump and big capitalists, who fear the revolution-

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PHOTO: CAMILLE ALEXANDRA PADILLA DALMAU/LATINO REBELS

Auto strikers say no tiers

The national strike by 49,000 United Auto Workers (UAW) workers against General Motors that started on September 15, 2019, is the biggest strike in the country since a two-day walkout against GM by the UAW in 2007.

Workers are angry that even though the company has made record profits—\$35 billion in the last three years—it won't give an inch when it comes to workers' demand for equal pay for all auto workers.

Central to this strike is GM's multitiered employment structure that ensures new hires are paid poverty wages — roughly half the rate of more senior workers. Additionally, about 7 percent of GM's workforce are so-called temporary workers who lack the rights and benefits of the permanent workforce.

Temp workers often do the same work as traditional employees, are paid less, entitled to fewer benefits and are easier to fire.

A former GM temp worker, now in a skilled trades apprentice program, told Michigan's public radio station last week that being a temp was one of the worst times of her life. "They have a way of pitting you against a permanent employee where you feel like, if you go the extra mile, if you work a little bit more than your union brother or sister, that will give you an opportunity to eventually get hired in full time and that's not the case."

Additionally, the UAW and GM are negotiating over pay and benefits, and, crucially, whether thousands of workers might become or remain laid off due to factory closings. ■



SLL PHOTO: EMMA ROSE

BALTIMORE



JAKARTA



CAPE TOWN

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KABUL



DHAKA



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PHOTO: BRUCE EMMERLING

‘He’s the real rat’ Hundreds protest Trump’s arrival in Baltimore

By Emma Rose

Hundreds of anti-racist protesters gathered in Baltimore on Sept. 12 anticipating the arrival of Donald Trump, to say no to racism, white supremacy, bigotry, war and climate change. Protestors chanted “Trump is the real rat!” and “Immigrants are welcome here!”

The protest and rally was organized by the Peoples Power Assembly, ICE Out of Baltimore, Youth Against War and Racism and the Prisoners Solidarity Committee. It was part of a series of actions to oppose the Republican Party retreat, including a climate change protest, a labor sing-along and an LGBTQ2S dance on the promenade.

Protesters began gathering at 4 p.m. in Columbus Park, the closest available assembly point to the Marriott Hotel at Eastern Avenue and Pratt Street, site of the GOP retreat.

Earlier, a small group of right-wing Trump supporters attempted to stake hundreds of crosses in the area where the protest was called. They claimed that they were doing it to keep children off the grassy area. Protest organizers had arrived much earlier and prevented them from erecting the crosses.

When Trump finally arrived by helicopter after 6 p.m., he was taken by motorcade to the Marriott. He

scurried past protesters in the lightning-fast caravan to screams and shouts of “Rats out of Baltimore!” and “Shame, shame!” There was also a giant Trump-rat balloon and tons of signs and banners on display.

The rally was opened by co-chairs Andre Powell, Miranda Bachman and Emilia Duno, who represented the Peoples Power Assembly, Youth Against War and Racism and ICE Out of Baltimore respectively. They began by denouncing the park’s statue of Christopher Columbus and called for removing this monument to genocide and racism against Indigenous people.

The group purposely set up their rally and protest as far away from the statue as possible to distance themselves from everything it stands for. They also urged people to support replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

Maria Cella was the first speaker. This activist recently moved to Baltimore from San Diego, where she helped organize caravans to assist refugees stranded in Tijuana, Mexico.

Sharon Black, an organizer with the Peoples Power Assembly and a representative of Struggle-La Lucha newspaper and Partido Socialista por la Unidad/Socialist Unity Party, announced: “We called this demonstration because the people need sol-

idarity and unity. We have to stand in solidarity because it’s our weapon against racism and white supremacy.

“Trump called Baltimore ‘rat-infested’ to hide the reality of who destroyed Baltimore City. I have lived here for 40 years. I know what’s happened to our city. The same banks that support Trump are the ones that are responsible for the foreclosure crisis, which was one of the biggest crises that struck majority-Black cities like Baltimore and Detroit. It’s really about taking the wealth out of the Black community,” she said.

At the rally, Alec Summerfield, representing the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, declared to an enthusiastic crowd: “Does Donald Trump care about Freddie Gray? Does he care about Eric Garner? Does he care about Sandra Bland? Does he care about Korryn Gaines? No, no, no!

“He cares about himself and his profit margins, and his big bank and business buddies like Steve Menuchin and Mike Pompeo.”

The Rev. Cortly D. Witherspoon, a longtime advocate of civil rights in Baltimore City, energized the crowd with his message. “I had to come here and bring my son because when trouble and tribulations come, the people of Baltimore come together. An injury to one is an injury to all.

“Donald Trump has attempted to

spew racism and division. A people united will never, ever be defeated. We won’t allow ourselves to be divided,” Witherspoon vowed.

“We understand that Donald Trump is not just an individual,” he continued. “He represents a system, so it’s not just about getting rid of Trump, it’s about getting rid of fascism and racism and bigotry and sexism in the United States. And so we come standing side by side and shoulder to shoulder, and we ain’t gonna let no Donald Trump, or no racist, fascist system turn us around.

“Baltimore was the wrong target. Trump should have selected a less organized city and a less passionate city, because we are going to fight the good fight here in Baltimore,” Witherspoon concluded.

Other speakers included Abraham Tena from CASA in Action, whose delegation brought a giant “Abolish ICE” display; Emilia Duno from ICE Out of Baltimore, which has been organizing to shut down detention camps; Miranda Bachman from Youth Against War and Racism, who defended Palestine; Rafiki Morris from Maryland Council of Elders, the All-African People’s Revolutionary Party (AAPRP) and Communities United; Ian Schlakman from Maryland Green Party; and representatives of Extinction Rebellion. ■

Long live the memory of Robert Mugabe!

By Stephen Millies

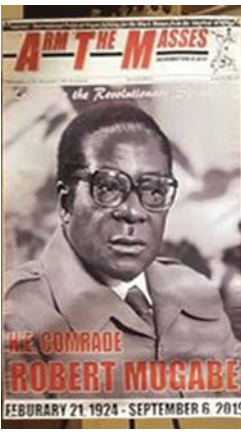
New York — Almost 200 people came to Harlem’s All Souls Episcopal Church on Sept. 17 to pay tribute to the late Robert Gabriel Mugabe. The memorial meeting for the former president of Zimbabwe, who died on Sept. 6, was organized by the December 12th Movement.

Mugabe was hated by all the imperialist overlords — from Wall Street to London to Paris — whose capitalist world market was jump-started by the African Holocaust. But to tens of millions of Africans and oppressed people everywhere, Robert Mugabe was a liberator.

The people of Zimbabwe were invaded in the 1890s by the British Empire on behalf of the diamond and gold mining multimillionaire Cecil Rhodes. Africans were forced off their land and their leaders were executed for resisting.

The resulting white settler regime was called Rhodesia. When Africans protested in the 1960s, police dogs were used against them like they were used against civil rights demonstrators in Birmingham, Ala.

African leaders were jailed by Rhodesia’s leader, the white farm owner



PHOTOS: NAYABA ARINDE / DECEMBER 12TH MOVEMENT

Ian Smith. Among them was Robert Mugabe, who was jailed for 11 years. Smith refused to let Magube attend his child’s funeral.

While Hitler promised a thousand-year Third Reich, Smith vowed that it would be a thousand years before Africans ruled their own country. But Robert Mugabe and the people of Zimbabwe defeated Smith.

Mugabe became the leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union, which launched a liberation war from newly independent Mozambique. By 1980, Zimbabwe was free.

Land and freedom

Baba Zayid helped start the memorial and libations were performed by Camile Yarbrough. Members of the audience shouted out names of African liberators.

The famous photographer Kwame Brathwaite was introduced and the Rev. Frank Morales of All Souls welcomed the audience to the church. New York State Assemblyperson Charles Barron and New York City Councilperson Inez Barron saluted Robert Mugabe.

Omowale Clay and three other leaders of the December 12th Movement who had attended Robert Mugabe’s funeral spoke. Zimbabwe President Emmerson Mnangagwa attended the funeral, as did several other African heads of state. So did Cuban Vice President Inés Maria Chapman.

Young people at the memorial read words of Robert Magube. Among them were, “We have fought for our land, we have fought for sovereignty, small as we are we have won our independence and we are prepared to shed our blood!”

Zimbabwe was free but the land was still owned by thousands of white farmers who exploited tens of thousands of African farmworkers. Zimbabwe’s people, under the leadership of President Mugabe, took their land back.

As Charles Barron noted, taking back the land is what really made the wealthy and powerful hate Robert Mugabe. New York’s media have never forgiven Charles Barron for bringing Robert Mugabe to the New

York City Council.

The U.S. government placed cruel economic sanctions on Zimbabwe, as it has done to Cuba, Iran, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen. Sanctions kill. People in the church chanted, “Lift the sanctions now!”

The capitalist media lied about Zimbabwe for years before independence. According to a 1979 documentary that was shown at the memorial, 80 percent of the coverage in London’s daily newspapers supported Ian Smith and was hostile to the liberation struggle.

Viola Plummer, the chairperson of the December 12th Movement, called His Excellency Comrade Robert G. Mugabe one of the greatest leaders that Africa has produced. The Pan African scholar, professor Leonard Jeffries, praised Mugabe. Activists from the Côte d’Ivoire declared that “Robert Magube fulfilled his mission.”

Members of the December 12th Movement urged people to come out on Saturday, Sept. 21, to demand: “Lift U.S. sanctions off Zimbabwe.” The demonstration will start at 12 noon sharp at 53rd Street and Lexington Avenue and will march to the United Nations.

For more information, call 718-398-1766 or visit D12M.com.

Long live the memory of Robert Mugabe! ■

Biden's crimes in Ukraine – and Trump's

By Greg Butterfield

As U.S. President Donald Trump gave a bellicose speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 24, attacking Iran, Venezuela, China, and workers and oppressed people all over the world, Democratic Party House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the beginning of an impeachment inquiry against Trump.

However, the impeachment process is not about Trump's numerous violations of international law, such as casting aside the Iran nuclear deal, abetting the seizure of Venezuela's overseas assets and its Embassy in Washington, or tightening the illegal blockade of Cuba.

Nor does it have to do with the mass violation of human rights at the U.S.-Mexico border or the imprisonment of refugees in concentration camps. It's not about his policies encouraging environmental destruction, either.

No, the impeachment process centers on a July 25 phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky, in which Trump allegedly pressured Zelensky to investigate corruption charges against former Vice President and current Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden.

This "explosive" charge was made by an intelligence agent who filed a whistleblower complaint. The agent implied Trump had demanded a quid pro quo from Zelensky in exchange for continued U.S. aid.

Later, it was reported that the Trump administration had put a temporary hold on almost \$400 million in military aid to Kiev prior to the call. The military aid was later released. Trump says there was no connection between the call and his "review" of the aid.

It is reasonable to ask why the Democratic Party leadership considers this impeachment-worthy when life-and-death issues affecting millions of working people are not.

The official explanation, as reported by the Guardian, is that "It is illegal for a political campaign to accept 'a thing of value' from a foreign government. Democrats say an investigation into a political opponent—for which Trump appears to have been pushing—would amount to 'a thing of value.'"

What no one in Washington or the corporate media cares to mention are the real and deadly crimes of the U.S. government and big business in Ukraine — under both the Democratic Obama administration in which Biden served, and now the Trump administration.

U.S. soldier aids neo-Nazis

On Sept. 23, Grayzone investigative journalist Ben Norton reported on the FBI's arrest of Jarrett William Smith, a U.S. soldier who sought to join the Azov Battalion, a neo-Nazi military group in Ukraine.

"While serving in the U.S. military," Norton wrote, "this right-wing extremist gave fascist militants in Ukraine and other countries information on how to build bombs. ...

"The FBI said he had also planned to travel to Ukraine



Home destroyed by Ukrainian bombs on the outskirts of Donetsk.

SLL PHOTO BY GREG BUTTERFIELD

in order to join the Azov Battalion, a neo-Nazi militia that has for years been directly supported by the U.S. government."

This is the real story about Ukraine that should be brought to the attention of workers and oppressed people, because it gets to the far more significant crimes of Biden, Trump and the wealthy boss class they both serve:

- how the U.S. ushered in a right-wing coup regime in Ukraine in 2014 with the aid of open fascists;
- how the new government backed by Washington launched a bloody war against the people of the Donbass mining region, while also increasing military threats against neighboring Russia;
- ongoing repression against opponents of the regime, including the jailing of hundreds of political prisoners, beatings and killings by neo-Nazi groups, and the massacre of 48 people at the House of Trade Unions in Odessa on May 2, 2014;
- how austerity and privatization have benefitted big Western capitalists and banks while harming the people of Ukraine; and the fact that this process—which began under the Democratic Obama administration—continues under Republican Trump today.

Norton cites several earlier examples of collaboration between U.S.-based white supremacists and Ukrainian fascists. Last year, for example, members of a California group that participated in the violent, racist attacks in Charlottesville in 2017 were revealed to have attended an Azov training camp.

Azov was formed in 2014 as one of several neo-Nazi "volunteer militias" which, together with the Ukrainian Armed Forces, have waged war against the mostly Russian-speaking residents of the Donbass mining region of eastern Ukraine. In a popular referendum, the residents of Donbass voted overwhelmingly to declare independence and formed the Donetsk



Azov Battalion

and Lugansk People's Republics.

In 2015, when some U.S. congress-people expressed discomfort with providing support to a group that uses fascist sigils, Azov was promptly incorporated into the Ukrainian National Guard to give cover for U.S./NATO military training and equipment.

On Feb. 25, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported that the number of deaths had reached up to 13,000 since the war in Donbass began in 2014, with more than 30,000 wounded. Millions of people were displaced and became refugees as a result of the war.

In order to keep a gauze of "plausible denial," the Obama administration had banned the direct sale of "lethal weapons" to Ukraine, instead facilitating those sales through third countries, like the Gulf monarchies. Trump removed that restriction.

Although Zelensky was voted into office by Ukrainians hoping he would end the war, military attacks by Kiev have increased since he took office in May.

Biden's role

From the start of the war in 2014 through 2016, Vice President Joe Biden served as the virtual colonial governor of Ukraine. He visited the country frequently, dangling carrots and swinging sticks, to make sure the motley crew of oligarchs, pro-Western politicians and neo-Nazis who took power did what Washington wanted.

On April 25, 2014, this author wrote: "The so-called 'anti-terrorist campaign' [military attack on Donbass] was launched after a visit by CIA Director John Brennan to Kiev on April 12-13. Following humiliating setbacks, including the desertion of many troops the regime had believed loyal, the attack resumed immediately after U.S. Vice President Joe Biden flew to Kiev on April 22 to apply more pressure and promise more aid."

It was Biden, more than any other figure in the Obama administration, who oversaw the brutal austerity and privatization "reforms" demanded by the big banks and the equally brutal war in Donbass.

This included privatization of Ukraine's rich farmland and

its takeover by Monsanto and other Western agribusiness corporations pushing GMOs — one of many provisions demanded by the International Monetary Fund in exchange for a \$17.5 billion bailout — and the introduction of fracking. Biden's son, Hunter Biden, was directly involved in the latter as an executive of gas production company Burisma Holdings, along with other capitalists with close ties to the Obama administration.

The corruption charges which Trump reportedly wanted Ukraine to investigate have to do with Joe Biden's role in the firing of Ukrainian Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin, who was supposed to investigate corruption. One of the entities Shokin was investigating was Bursima Holdings.

At a meeting of the Council on Foreign Affairs, Joe Biden later bragged about how he used the threat of withdrawing a billion dollar line of credit to get the prosecutor fired. All perfectly legal and normal, we are assured.

The mainstream media—and even alternative media like The Nation and The Intercept—have gone to great pains, bending and twisting pretzel-like, to justify Biden's conduct as legal and unassailable, even if they admit an appearance of "impropriety."

After all, this kind of conduct is business as usual for U.S. politicians and the wealthy class they serve — regardless of which capitalist party they belong to!

The austerity preacher

In December 2015, Biden spoke in the Rada, the Ukrainian parliament, lecturing his subjects on the need to "end cronyism." He praised those who carried out the coup two years earlier and those conducting war crimes against the civilian population of Donbass.

He also warned the assembled politicians not to lose their nerve in carrying out austerity measures on the backs of the workers if they wanted to continue getting money from the U.S. and the International Monetary Fund.

"The big part of moving forward with your IMF program — it requires difficult reforms. ... to vote to raise the pension age is to write your political obituary in many places. ... It requires sacrifices that might not be politically expedient or popular. ... I urge you to stay the course as hard as it is."

Any worker, looking at the facts here, might ask not only about the evident corruption, but about how it is "normal" and "legal" for a U.S. politician to dictate the political and economic policies, including war and peace, poverty and austerity, of another country.

Both Biden and Trump, congressional Democrats and Republicans, are playing out their struggle for power and privilege atop a mountain of bodies of children, civilians and anti-fascists killed in Donbass, and the ongoing repression of political oppositionists, journalists and ordinary workers in Ukraine.

That is the real scandal and the real story that must be exposed. [R]



Joe Biden preaches austerity to Ukrainian parliament, December 2015.

Climate strikers demand system change

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ary potential that message could unleash. Her intensity and uncompromising demands that governments and politicians acknowledge the scientific reality of climate change and the urgent need for action to save lives was on full display at the U.N. Climate Action Summit, where she hurled the charge of “How dare you!” at the assembled politicians.

But Thunberg isn’t alone in giving a voice to the movement. The climate strike has introduced many to young leaders like Autumn Peltier, a 13-year-old water protector from the Indigenous Wikwemikong First Nation; 17-year-old Mexican-born, New York activist Xiye Bastida; and African American Mari Copeny, a 12-year-old from Flint, Mich., who is helping lead the fight for clean water in her hometown.

Youth, workers fight for climate justice

Struggle-La Lucha’s Gloria Verdeieu reports: “There were walkouts at high schools and universities throughout **San Diego**. I went to the one close to where I live at San Diego State University. Hundreds of students walked out of class. There were also faculty, community and some city council members.

“The message was that now is the time for action against climate change. After marching through the campus, a rally began with a message from Greta Thunberg, who said, ‘No company on earth has a climate change strategy that is good enough.’”

In **Seattle**, more than 1,700 Amazon.com workers walked out of the company’s headquarters to join the Climate Strike. Organized by the group Amazon Employees for Climate Justice, they struck the behemoth company to demand that billionaire CEO Jeff Bezos pledge for the company to reach zero emissions by 2030 and stop providing cloud computing services to oil and gas companies. They were joined by workers from Google and other tech giants who merged with the student-led march to City Hall.

“Over five hundred **Baltimore** youth and students came together on Sept. 20 to participate in the Global Climate Strike,” reports Emma Rose. “Middle and high school students from city schools, including Baltimore Polytechnic, City College High

UAIINE PHOTO



School and the Baltimore School for the Arts, as well as students from local colleges, gathered to declare to government officials and the world that they will not stand for climate change denial and disregard.

“Students demanded a better future for themselves and their peers. One youth held a sign calling attention to the recent climate disasters ignored by the U.S.: ‘I strike for the 4,000+ Boricuas that died after Hurricane María and our friends in the Bahamas.’”

“Youth and supporters marched from Baltimore Inner Harbor to City Hall. Organizers of the rally set up an open mic where dozens of youth got a chance to speak. One Bryn Mawr high school student organizer declared: ‘By striking, we support a global movement which demands a Green New Deal, respect for Indigenous land and sovereignty, environmental justice, protection and restoration of biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture.’”

‘Earth before profits’

According to M. Tiahui, “Huge crowds in **Boston** for the Climate Strike. We were proud that there were four Indigenous speakers on the program. Thousands of people heard messages about climate justice and the need to center Indigenous knowledge and sovereignty.”

One of those speakers was Mahtowin Munro, co-leader of United American Indians of New England, who said: “Profound climate change happened in this hemisphere following the invasion of Columbus and the other European colonizers that would follow. The changes were due to the decimation and genocide of tens of millions of Indigenous humans within a short period of time. Every place the Europeans landed, Indigenous populations were massively re-

duced, including right here where we stand.

“I’m gonna be real and not lie to you today. The years of delays in understanding and addressing modern climate collapse have meant that we’re not going to be able to reverse a lot of the changes that are already underway. But that doesn’t mean we should give up. It means that we have to fight even harder and be in the streets disrupting just like we are today!”

“We can’t trust the people, systems and corporations that have raced toward destruction for years to suddenly turn around and do the right thing. We need to insist on putting Earth before profits and not settle on half-measures and promises. We need immediate changes, not gradual. We need much more than a Green New Deal.”

In **Los Angeles**, thousands of high school students defied city officials and walked out to join Climate Strike actions at Pershing Square, City Hall and other locations. An action is planned at the Brazilian Consulate on Sept. 27 to protest the ultra right-wing Brazilian government’s inaction on the massive fire burning the Amazon forest.

Leon Koufax reports: “Thousands of people gathered on Capitol Hill in **Washington, D.C.**, to demand that political and economic leaders take progressive action regarding climate change. The image was rather stirring — activists demanding action to preserve our planet while juxtaposed to a symbol of an institution that has refused to hold polluting corporations accountable.

“The demonstration was high in spirit and mainly composed of youth. The message was clear: we refuse to inherit a planet that is dying due to capitalist greed and recklessness. One of the most powerful speak-



SLL PHOTO: JOHN PARKER

ers of the afternoon was a young Indigenous woman who proclaimed that not only was the land we were all standing on stolen from her people, but those who stole that land have done nothing but disrespect its beauty and resources for hundreds of years.”

As world leaders gathered in New York for the United Nations General Assembly in the days immediately after the Climate Strike, 16 youths filed a petition to the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child attempting to hold Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany and Turkey accountable for their inaction on the climate crisis. The young people are from Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, India, Marshall Islands, Nigeria, Palau, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia and the U.S.

The world’s biggest enemy of human rights and climate justice, U.S. imperialism, has never ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, while President Trump has announced the U.S. will pull out of the (woefully inadequate) Paris climate accords.

“Let’s say it very clearly,” as Bolivian President Evo Morales said at the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 24. “The root of the problem is capitalism.” @



SHUT IT DOWN

How the U.S. war machine poisons the world

By Scott Scheffer

For years, Pentagon officials have been discussing, assessing and reporting on climate change.

They consider its implications for imperialist military tactics and strategy. They cite the possibilities of mass migration due to water and food shortages. They stress the need to prepare to deal with possible mass uprisings. They've written reports that assess the vulnerability of their military installations to extreme weather events – drought, flooding, wildfires, etc.

But like the proverbial elephant in the room that everyone pretends not to notice, one pertinent fact gets omitted from every discussion, report or study by the top military brass: that the U.S. military itself is by far the single worst polluter in the world.

Many studies over the last decade rate countries based on how much their economy contributes to the rising amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) in the atmosphere. In 2016, the U.S. was the third largest polluter behind Saudi Arabia and Australia, emitting 15 metric tons per capita.

But greenhouse gases take decades or even centuries to dissipate. Historical records kept by the World Resources Institute show that since 1850, the U.S. and Europe are responsible for nearly two-thirds of the heat-trapping contaminants currently in our atmosphere.

But many contemporary studies exclude some or all of the emissions caused by armed forces.

How bad is the pollution from the U.S. military? The information is not easy to get. The authors of a study called “U.S. Military Pollution,” published on TheEcologist.org, point to the efforts of the U.S. Department of Defense to conceal information and resist any restrictions:

“It’s no coincidence that U.S. military emissions tend to be overlooked in climate change studies. It’s very difficult to get consistent data from the Pentagon and across U.S. government departments.

“In fact, the United States insisted on an exemption for reporting military emissions in the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. This loophole was closed by the Paris Accord, but with the Trump administration due to withdraw from the accord in 2020, this gap will return.

“Our study is based on data retrieved from multiple Freedom of Information Act requests.”

It isn’t only CO2 emissions. Mint Press News reported that the Defense Department is responsible for more toxic waste than the five largest U.S.-based chemical companies combined.

Pentagon’s environmental racism

The military is guilty of leaving toxic waste behind in various forms: contaminating drinking water with perchlorates and other components of jet fuel; the horrors of depleted uranium, used in Iraq and other countries attacked by the imperialist military, that has radiated the ground

and air, causing cancer rates to spike; nuclear tests that displaced entire populations and destroyed islands in the Bikini Atoll and destroyed Indigenous lands in Nevada; mining for uranium that poisoned Navajo lands in the Black Hills; the mass destruction of the island of Vieques in Puerto Rico – the list goes on and on.

Of the 1,300 Superfund sites—areas so contaminated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists their cleanup as urgent and directs funds toward their cleanup—more than 900 are the consequence of U.S. military activity. Many are abandoned military bases.

Since its initiation in the 1980s, the Superfund program has only claimed success in cleaning up about 15 to 20 percent of contaminated sites.

But the Pentagon is also the single largest consumer of oil. If it were compared to countries showing the volume of CO2 they send into the atmosphere, it would be listed somewhere around the 50th worst — more than 140 countries.

A June 2019 Brown University study calculates that between 2001 and 2017, all branches of the U.S. military emitted 1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse gases. That amount included 400 million metric tons from the U.S. wars against Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria, as well as attacks in Pakistan.

In an article on Pentagon pollution posted on ClimateAndCapital-



SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

People’s Mobilization to Stop the U.S. War Machine and Save the Planet in New York, Sept. 22.

ism.com, H. Patricia Hynes describes consumption of fuel by the airforce alone: “The U.S. Air Force (USAF) is the single largest consumer of jet fuel in the world.

“Fathom, if you can, the astronomical fuel usage of USAF fighter planes: the F-4 Phantom Fighter burns more than 1,600 gallons of jet fuel per hour and peaks at 14,400 gallons per hour at supersonic speeds. The B-52 Stratocruiser, with eight jet engines, guzzles 500 gallons per minute; ten minutes of flight uses as much fuel as the average driver does in one year of driving!

“A quarter of the world’s jet fuel feeds the USAF fleet of flying killing machines; in 2006, they consumed as much fuel as U.S. planes did during the Second World War (1941-1945) — an astounding 2.6 billion gallons,” Hynes reported.

Since the first U.S. attack on Iraq in 1990, the majority of U.S. military activity has remained in the Arab

world to maintain control over oil markets. According to PressTV, U.S. troops are stationed in 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, there is a huge U.S. base in Qatar, the Fifth Fleet is stationed in Bahrain, and there is a U.S. military airport in Oman. We can now add Al-Tanf in Syria, illegally occupied by the U.S. There may also be illegal bases in occupied Palestine.

It may seem ironic that the oil-guzzling U.S. military has killed, by some estimates, over 500,000 people since the first Gulf War, and destroyed the infrastructure and poisoned the land in several countries in order to maintain control of oil markets. In this era of capitalism in the stage of imperialism, the drive for profit isn’t guided by logic and knows no bounds.

The horror wrought by U.S. imperialism and its military domination will only end with the abolition of both. [X]

LOS ANGELES

The revolutionary role of Black art & artists

By Rebecka Jackson-Moeser

As part of an ongoing “The Black Aesthetic” community forum series, I interviewed Aleshea Harris at the Harriet Tubman Center in Los Angeles on Sept. 19. Harris is an accomplished writer in theater and film and her odic and mellifluous style harks back to the radical, lyrical essays that fill “The Black Aesthetic.” Her personal and professional life draw a direct parallel to the struggles that Black artists and Black communities still struggle with.

This series is meant to highlight the intrinsic revolutionary nature of Black art and artists in a world defined by white supremacy and the need for the continued support of Black artists as a voice of all the oppressed. The interview closed with questions and input from the audience which furthered the conversation about the pervasiveness of white privilege in art and the future of the artists’ role as leaders in revolutionary struggles.



SLL PHOTO

Aleshea Harris (left) in conversation with Rebecka Jackson-Moeser.

“The Black Aesthetic” was a seminal text that was composed of a series of essays from the most prominent Black writers, musicians, artists and poets. It included definitions and explorations of what Black art was and

was becoming, with lengthy critiques on society, racism and art as a whole. Many of the artists I have chosen to interview from this series were training or working at the time of its publication and were influenced by its contributors in their own professional careers. Others are younger artists who are now grappling with many of the same issues from 1971.

As many of these issues have been exacerbated rather than attrited: What, if anything, is the Black aesthetic of 2019?



The next talk will be in San Diego with Dr. Niyi Coker on Oct. 19. It will be held at the Malcolm X Library, 5148 Market St., at 3 p.m. [X]

Cuba resists economic strangulation

By Cheryl LaBash

A Sept. 16 Business Insider headline alerted readers: “Grocery stores would run out of food in just 3 days if long-haul truckers stopped working.” Scary thought? But what if they stopped working because they had no fuel — and they had no fuel because a powerful neighbor had blocked oil and gasoline deliveries? Isn’t that what Cuba is facing today? On Sept. 24, the U.S. Department of the Treasury doubled down on its economic war against the Republic of Cuba by blocking four shipping companies based in Cyprus and Panama—countries outside of the United States—and four tanker ships that deliver fuel to Cuba.

The Treasury Department press release used heavily coded wording to assert the source of the oil shipments is Venezuela, another independent, sovereign country suffering from Washington-instigated coup plots and U.S. economic, political and even threatened military assaults. On the same day, at the United Nations, the U.S. representative again and again lauded defense of sovereignty as a supreme goal while shamelessly undermining and assaulting Cuba’s sovereign right to trade without extraterritorial interference.

Why Cuba buys oil from Venezuela

Cuba and Venezuela initiated the Bolivarian Alliance for the People of Our America-Trade Treaty of the People (ALBA-TCP) in 2004 as a “political, economic, and social alliance in defense of independence, self-determination and the identity of peoples comprising it.” An offshoot of the ALBA-TCP cooperative association is PetroCaribe, a program to “provide low-interest oil sales to nearby countries facing expensive imports” from imperialist-dominated oil monopolies. Can Cuba buy oil from the United



PHOTO: OPERATION MILAGRO

Restoring people’s eyesight is one of the benefits of Cuba-Venezuela economic solidarity.

States? No, by U.S. law, Cuba can only buy food and medicine from the U.S. Even those purchases are often impossible because international banks are fearful of being fined for conducting legal financial transactions. What about other Western Hemisphere oil producers? Mexico, Brazil and Colombia all depend on business relationships with the U.S. Even if they had the will to sell oil to Cuba, their partnership with U.S. multinational corporations prevents it. Cuba’s oil deliveries will continue to arrive. Because of the unilateral U.S. economic, financial and commercial blockade, the fuel will cost more, taking resources from other needs of the Cuban people. **Behind U.S. government slanders** Big Oil wants to keep prices high and seeks to control Venezuela’s oil and other natural resources to keep it that way. But for Venezuela, promoting a solidarity economy by provid-

ing low-cost oil to small neighbors, and giving voices and inclusion to the Indigenous, Afro-descendants, workers, women and poor farmers, is important. By building and providing 2.8 million homes so the poorest Venezuelan families have dignity, while in the U.S. developers gentrify cities and force working families to live on the street, Venezuela shows another world is possible. Working with Cuba’s advanced medical capabilities and development brings Cuban doctors to Venezuelans who had never had health care, and builds medical schools to train more doctors. It includes partnering with Cuba to restore sight to nearly 50,000 people through Operation Milagro surgeries. It means teaching everyone to read. Illiteracy was eliminated in 2005, as certified by UNESCO. Venezuela’s oil profits partnered with Cuba’s medical and education-

al strength have helped millions of people lead better lives. The corporate press uses code words like “dictator,” “corruption” and “tyrant” to hide these truths that can be very appealing to workers and oppressed nations inside the U.S., where, for many, life is not so great, and getting worse. The union adage “an injury to one is an injury to all” and “solidarity” live in Cuba and Venezuela. But in the U.S., schools teach self-marketing and individual achievement, plus the false wonders of a “free market” where wealth and benefits go to the already wealthy. The climate catastrophe threatening all life on earth moved hundreds of thousands of youth into the streets on Sept. 20. Many already understand that the profit-before-people capitalist system perpetuates climate deniers and blocks changes that are needed now, not later. International cooperation and socialism, where humanity is the priority, are becoming a realistic and necessary alternative in the eyes and hearts of many. Solidarity and unity are Cuba’s secret weapons. Solidarity is Venezuela’s shield against the multiple U.S.-inspired coup attempts this year alone. Both of these sovereign and independent countries are resisting the economic war waged by the huge U.S. economic bully that is cruelly attempting to starve people into embracing capitalism. We have only to look at Haiti and Puerto Rico to see the real “wonders” promised by capitalist exploitation. On Nov. 6 and 7, Cuba’s resolution to end the U.S. blockade will come before the United Nations General Assembly. The people of the world will vote to #UnblockCuba as they have annually since 1992. It is up to us in the U.S. to #UnblockCuba. Plan now to come to New York or organize in your community. Together we can do it. ■

Amazon fires

‘Justice for workers and the environment are same the struggle’

By Scott Scheffer

About 30 people turned out to a Sept. 7 public forum focusing on the fires blazing in the Amazon forest in Brazil. The event was held at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice in Los Angeles and was co-sponsored by the People’s Power Assembly-Los Angeles and the American Indian Movement of Southern California. Two AIM SoCal leaders, Gray Wolf and Brenda Gutierrez, spoke eloquently about the history of AIM, the battles at Standing Rock and about Indigenous peoples’ struggles throughout the world. Each of them expressed strong solidarity with the Indigenous peoples who reside in the Amazon and face being forced out by the right-wing drive to exploit the resources of the forest. Brazilian activist Jefferson

Azevedo of the Socialist Unity Party pointed the finger of blame at the capitalist system itself. He spoke about the dominance of the agricultural, meat and mineral corporations that have found a willing partner in right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro. But their dominance and the reckless destruction of the Amazon didn’t begin with Bolsonaro, Azevedo pointed out. Although deforestation slowed when former president and current political prisoner Lula Da Silva was elected, and during the first term of progressive President Dilma Roussef, it picked up again under pressure from the same forces in Roussef’s second term. Azevedo attributed the sweeping attacks on progressive politics in Brazil to this same group of rich and powerful capitalists: “Former President Dilma Roussef being thrown out



Jefferson Azevedo



Gray Wolf



Brenda Gutierrez

SLL PHOTOS: SCOTT SCHEFFER

of office, Lula being imprisoned, the election of Bolsonaro — none of it would have happened were it not for the dominance in Brazilian politics of these right-wing millionaires. “This explains [Bolsonaro’s] silence when it comes to the fire that is consuming one of the greatest wonders of this planet and the habitat of a wide variety of living species.” Azevedo ended his talk on a hopeful note: “Capitalist greed domi-

nates today, but is digging its own grave. Thousands of Brazilians are protesting against Bolsonaro now, in spite of the history of right-wing violence against working-class and progressive people. “Protests over environmental issues have been rare in Brazil, but now people see that this is an issue that affects workers, and that justice for workers and environmental justice are the same struggle.” ■

U.S. hands off the Colombian and Venezuelan people!

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro issued an “orange alert” to the National Bolivarian Armed Forces on Sept. 3. The alert means the Bolivarian military must remain on standby for possible aggression from neighboring Colombia after President Iván Duque ordered the mobilization of military units at the border.

“We know that there is an attempt to try to scale a set of false flag operations,” Maduro said during an event marking the ninth anniversary of the Bolivarian Military University. “The government of Colombia ... now intends to maneuver a false flag operation to attack Venezuela and start a military conflict against our country.”

Duque is a close ally of the United States in its effort to overthrow President Maduro and quash the Venezuelan people’s socialist aspirations. Earlier this year, Colombia provided the staging ground for a so-called “humanitarian aid” effort by Washington and its puppet, the self-proclaimed “interim president” of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó, as part of a failed coup attempt.

In a televised speech Sept. 9, Maduro added: “We have evidence of conspiracies being hatched in Colombia to send terrorist groups to attack civilian and military targets.” He denounced Colombia’s efforts to get military officials to defect and the targeting of Venezuela’s radar, air defense and logistical systems.

Maduro also ordered a military exercise called “Peace and Sovereignty” from Sept. 10 to Sept. 28. The exercises will be held in the northern states of Amazonas, Tachira Apure and Zulia, which share a border with Colombia.

The latest threats from Colombia—the recipient of billions of dollars in U.S. military aid—come as the Trump regime continues to tighten the blockade of Venezuela and its close ally, socialist Cuba.

Colombia government betrays peace accords

In this tense climate, on Aug. 29, a section of the Colombian political party Alternative Communal Revolutionary Forces (FARC), including some of its former peace negotiators, announced their intention to resume armed struggle and reform

the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People’s Army (FARC–EP).

All sectors of the Colombian left are committed to peace with social justice, including the faction that took up arms. Many are still committed to the 2016 peace process agreed in Havana, although by all accounts the Colombian government has failed its commitments to it.

Since 2016, acts of terror by paramilitary death squads targeting demobilized guerrillas as well as labor activists, human rights defenders, Indigenous and Afro-Colombian leaders, and opposition political figures have continued, with more than 700 people killed according to some sources. Even relatives of the demobilized guerrillas have been targeted.

The assassination of community leader María del Pilar Hurtado in the northern province of Córdoba sparked national demonstrations on July 26 demanding government compliance with the peace accords and an end to the killings.

Following the Aug. 29 announcement of the FARC–EP’s reconstitution, the U.S.-backed Duque regime accused Venezuela of providing aid and refuge to the insurgency. Venezuela rejected that accusation and pointed the finger of blame clearly at Duque’s regime for the breakdown of the peace accords.

“It is incredible that Iván Duque, with absolute impertinence ... looks to displace his exclusive responsibility in the planned dismantling of

the peace process,” stated an Aug. 30 Venezuelan Foreign Ministry communique.

On Sept. 11, the Organization of American States invoked the 1947 Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (IRAT) mutual defense agreement against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, heightening the threat of U.S.-backed military regime change aggression.

Murder in Colombia: Made in USA

It’s been said that Colombia is the linchpin of U.S. military strategy in Latin America. This is demonstrated by the fact that Colombia recently became the first Latin American country to affiliate with NATO. Currently the U.S. maintains nine military bases in Colombia.


A July 18 article in Foreign Policy described U.S. efforts to pressure Colombia to buy 15 of the latest Lockheed Martin F-16 fighter jets, citing Washington’s “alarm” at the situation in Venezuela. Maj. Gen. Andrew Croft, commander of U.S. Air Forces Southern, said the sale would “be a great advancement for not only their capability to defend their sovereign air space” but would also increase Colombia’s ability to work with U.S. forces in the region.

As the Washington Office on Latin America reported in May 2017: “Since ‘Plan Colombia’ began with a large appropriation in 2000, the United States has given Colombia over \$10 billion in assistance. Of this

amount, about 70 percent went to Colombia’s military and police forces. Major initiatives included U.S.-backed military offensives against the guerrillas, forced eradication of more than 4 million acres of coca, the training of over 100,000 personnel, and the delivery or upgrade of over 100 helicopters.”

Ultimately, it’s up to the Colombian people to determine the best means to continue their long and heroic struggle for a New Colombia based on real peace with social justice, free of U.S. military occupation and exploitation of giant transnational monopolies that exploit the labor, land and other resources that rightly belong to the people.

In this struggle, the people of Colombia, Venezuela and the whole region will need to rely upon and strengthen one another in the anti-imperialist spirit of Simón Bolívar, the 19th century liberation hero who sought to unite the peoples of South America. In that spirit, the 2010 Community of Latin America and Caribbean States, along with the 2004 Bolivarian Alliance for the People of Our America–People’s Trade Treaty and Petro–Caribe were created, showing the way forward to create a zone of peace.

For the anti-war and anti-imperialist movement in the U.S., our focus, our message and our actions must be clear: U.S. and Colombia hands off Venezuela, U.S. out of Colombia and all of Latin America! 

PEOPLES TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR COLOMBIA

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For the more than **730 human rights defenders and social leaders** who have been murdered since the implementation of the Peace Accord in 2016. They are being killed at a rate of **one victim every 30 hours**. The assassins are military and paramilitary troops that act with impunity.



For the ex-insurgents who have laid down their weapons in order to participate in the peace who, since the implementation of the accord, have lost **more than 130 persons murdered** by enemies of the peace.



For the **indigenous and Afro-Colombian** communities who constitute more than **40% of the victims** of right-wing violence.



For the more than **6,100 indigenous children** in the Department of La Guajira, who have died from hunger and **thirst**, and the Wayúu communities who do not have food security while foreign mines rob their water and the Colombian and US government ignore them to invest in militarization and use their territory to foment interference and prepare for war against Venezuela.



For the more **8 million forcibly internally displaced** and the more than **5.5 million of Colombian refugees** in **Venezuela**. The majority of these are rural families and social leaders displaced due to the threats and assaults against them by the military and paramilitaries, and from the dispossession of their territories to satisfy the greed of big landowners, narco-traffickers, and foreign corporations.



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U.S. fuera de Colombia y Venezuela

El 3 de septiembre, el presidente de Venezuela Nicolás Maduro emitió una “alerta naranja” a la Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana. La alerta quiere decir que el ejército Bolivariano debe mantenerse en espera de una posible agresión de sus vecinos en Colombia después de que el presidente Iván Duque ordenara la movilización de unidades militares en la frontera.

“Sabemos que hay un intento de intensificar un conjunto de operaciones de bandera falsa” declaró Maduro durante un evento marcando el noveno aniversario de la Universidad Militar Bolivariana. “El gobierno de Colombia... ahora tiene la intención de fraguar una operación de bandera falsa para atacar a Venezuela y comenzar un conflicto militar contra nuestro país”.

Duque es un aliado cercano de los Estados Unidos en su esfuerzo por derrocar al presidente Maduro y anular las aspiraciones socialistas del pueblo Venezolano. A principios de este año, Colombia proporcionó el escenario para un supuesto esfuerzo de “ayuda humanitaria” por parte de Washington y su títere, el autoproclamado “presidente interino” de Venezuela Juan Guaidó, como parte de un fallido intento de golpe.

En un discurso televisado el 9 de septiembre, Maduro agregó: “Tenemos evidencia de conspiraciones tramadas en Colombia para enviar grupos terroristas para atacar objetivos civiles y militares”. Denunció además los esfuerzos de Colombia para hacer que los oficiales militares deserten, y seleccionar a los sistemas de radar, defensa aérea y logística de Venezuela como objetivos para posibles ataques.

Maduro también ordenó ejercicios militares llamados “Paz y Soberanía” del 10 al 28 de septiembre. Los ejercicios se llevarán a cabo en los estados norteros de Amazonas, Táchira, Apure y Zulia, que comparten la frontera con Colombia.

Las últimas amenazas de Colombia—el destinatario de miles de millones de dólares en ayuda militar de EE. UU. – llegaron mientras el régimen de Trump continúa endureciendo el bloqueo de Venezuela y su aliado cercano, Cuba socialista.

Gobierno de Colombia traiciona acuerdos de paz

En este tenso clima el 29 de agosto, una sección del partido político Colombiano Fuerzas Alternativas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), incluyendo algunos de sus antiguos negociadores de paz, anunciaron sus intenciones de resumir la lucha armada y reformar las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia – Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP).

Todos los sectores de la izquierda colombiana están comprometidos a la paz con justicia social, incluyen-



FOTO: PRENSA LATINA

Los maestros colombianos se declararon en huelga el 12 de septiembre para exigir que el gobierno cumpla con los acuerdos de paz. Al menos 10 maestros han sido asesinados desde que el presidente Iván Duque asumió el cargo.

do la facción que retomó las armas. Muchos siguen comprometidos con el proceso de paz de 2016 acordado en La Habana, aunque en todos los sentidos, el gobierno colombiano ha incumplido sus compromisos.

Desde el 2016, han continuado actos de terror por parte de paramilitares contra guerrilleros y guerrilleros desmovilizados, así como contra activistas sindicales, defensoras/es de los derechos humanos, líderes indígenas y afrocolombianos/os, y figuras políticas de la oposición, con más de 700 personas asesinadas según algunas fuentes. Incluso hasta familiares de las/os guerrilleros desmovilizados han sido atacados.

El asesinato de la líder comunitaria María del Pilar Hurtado en la provincia norteña de Córdoba provocó manifestaciones nacionales el 26 de julio exigiendo el cumplimiento del gobierno con los acuerdos de paz y el fin de los asesinatos.

Después del anuncio de la reconstitución de las FARC-EP, el régimen de Duque, respaldado por Estados Unidos, acusó a Venezuela de proporcionar ayuda y refugio a la insurgencia. Venezuela rechazó esa acusación y señaló con dedo acusador al régimen de Duque por la ruptura de los acuerdos de paz.

“Es increíble que Iván Duque, con absoluta impertinencia ... busque desplazar su responsabilidad exclusiva en el desmantelamiento planificado del proceso de paz”, declaró un comunicado del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Venezuela el 30 de agosto.

El 11 de septiembre, la Organización de Estados Americanos invocó el Tratado Interamericano de

Asistencia Recíproca [IRAT, por sus siglas en inglés] de 1947 – un acuerdo de defensa mutua – contra la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, lo que aumenta la amenaza de agresión militar instigada por Estados Unidos para el cambio del régimen.

Asesinatos en Colombia: Creados en Estados Unidos

Se ha dicho que Colombia es la pieza clave de la estrategia militar de Estados Unidos en América Latina. Esto se demuestra por el hecho de que Colombia se convirtió en el primer país latinoamericano en afiliarse a la OTAN. Actualmente, Estados Unidos mantiene nueve bases militares en Colombia.

Un artículo del 18 de julio en ‘Foreign Policy’ describió los esfuerzos de Estados Unidos para presionar a Colombia para que compre 15 de los últimos aviones de combate F-16 de la Lockheed Martin, citando la “alarma” de Washington sobre la situación en Venezuela. El mayor general Andrew Croft, comandante de la Fuerza Aérea Estadounidense del Sur, dijo que la venta “sería un gran avance no solo por su capacidad para defender su espacio aéreo soberano”, sino que también aumentaría la capacidad de Colombia para trabajar con las fuerzas estadounidenses en la región. (foreignpolicy.com/2019/07/18)

Como la Oficina de Washington en Latinoamérica reportara en mayo 2017: “Desde que el ‘Plan Colombia’ comenzó con una gran asignación en 2000, Estados Unidos le ha dado a Colombia más de \$10 mil millones en asistencia. De esta cantidad, alre-

dedor del 70 por ciento se destinó a las fuerzas militares y policiales de Colombia. Las principales iniciativas incluyeron ofensivas militares respaldadas por los Estados Unidos contra la guerrilla, la erradicación forzada de más de 4 millones de acres de coca, la capacitación de más de 100,000 empleados y la entrega o actualización de más de 100 helicópteros”. (<https://www.wola.org>)

En última instancia, corresponde al pueblo colombiano determinar la mejor forma de continuar su larga y heroica lucha por una Nueva Colombia basada en la paz real con justicia social, libre de la ocupación militar estadounidense y la explotación de gigantes monopolios transnacionales que explotan la mano de obra, la tierra y otros recursos que justamente le pertenecen al pueblo colombiano.

En esta lucha, el pueblo colombiano, venezolano y de toda la región intentan confiar y fortalecerse mutuamente en el espíritu antiimperialista de Simón Bolívar – el libertario del siglo XIX que buscó unir a los pueblos de América del Sur – y en ese espíritu se crearon la Comunidad de Estados de Latinoamérica y el Caribe de 2010; la Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América – Tratado de Comercio de los Pueblos de 2004 y Petro-Caribe, mostrando el camino a seguir para crear una zona de paz.

Mientras, en el movimiento contra la guerra y antiimperialista en los EE. UU., nuestro enfoque, nuestro mensaje y nuestras acciones deben ser claros: ¡EE. UU. y Colombia manos fuera de Venezuela! ¡EE. UU., fuera de Colombia y toda Latinoamérica! 📢



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